

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for driving a dialog system (1) comprising an audio interface (11) for processing audio signals (3,6) wherein characteristics (2) of an expected audio input signal (3) are deduced, audio interface control parameters (4) are generated according to these characteristics (2), behaviour of the audio interface (11) is optimised based on the audio interface control parameters (4).
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein characteristics (2) are deduced from current and/or prior input data.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein characteristics (2) are deduced from a semantic analysis of the speech content (5) of the input audio signal (3);
4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein characteristics (2) are deduced from determined environmental conditions data.
5. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein characteristics (2) are deduced from an expected response to a current prompt (6) of the dialog system (1).
6. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the control parameters (4) comprise recording and/or processing parameters for an audio driver (9) of the audio

interface (11).

7. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the control parameters (4) comprise threshold parameters for an audio module (10) of the audio interface (11).

8. (Original) A dialog system (1) comprising an audio interface (11), a dialog control unit (12), a predictor module (13) for deducing characteristics (2) of an expected audio input signal (3), an audio optimiser (14) for optimising the behaviour of the audio interface (11) by generating audio input control parameters (4) based on the characteristics (2).

9. (Original) The dialog system (1) according to claim 8, wherein the audio interface (11) consists of audio hardware (8) and/or an audio driver (9) and/or an audio module (10).